United Nations S/2018/965

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 November 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 29 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the fifty-sixth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014), 2258 (2015), 2332 (2016), 2393 (2017) and 2401 (2018) (S/2018/947).

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again expresses its regret that the authors of the reports of the Secretary-General and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) continue to take a negative and politicized approach to the Syrian Arab Republic and its institutions. They continue to make the same errors, which is something of a major departure from their mandates, and they continue to deliberately ignore the observations of and concerns expressed by the Syrian Arab Republic with regard to previous Secretariat reports.

The Syrian Arab Republic has concluded that the present report, like its predecessors, is replete with errors and does not address the real humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic or what Syrians need to alleviate their suffering and harsh conditions and strengthen their resilience. The Syrian Government reiterates that by continuing to take this politicized approach when preparing these reports, which further only the agendas of certain influential States in the Security Council and their proxies in the region, OCHA will harm the reputation and credibility of the entire United Nations.

What follows is an overview of the position of the Syrian Government with respect to the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and the report under consideration. It would also like to stress the following points:

- Surprisingly, it is alleged in the report that the Syrian Government did not approve the bimonthly convoy plan for September and October. The truth is that the Government asked the United Nations to include areas that have been liberated, but which the Organization had originally classified as besieged or hard-to-reach, in the monthly regular programme for aid delivery.
- There is no indication in the report that the illegitimate international coalition led by United States of America committed yet another crime against innocent Syrian civilians. On 13 and 14 October 2018, coalition warplanes used internationally prohibited white phosphorus bombs against homes in the city of Hajin, Dayr al-Zawr Governorate. Several civilians, mostly women and

children, were killed and injured in that heinous crime. Yet in the report, it is merely stated that those operations are severely affecting civilians (para. 4). On 19 October 2018, the international coalition added yet another heinous crime to its criminal record when coalition aircraft bombarded homes in the villages of Susah and Albu Badran in the southern countryside of Dayr al-Zawr governorate, killing 62 civilians, mostly women and children, and injuring an unknown number of others, some of whom are in critical condition. The report indicates that those operations were directed against the terrorist organization Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), but the crime that was perpetrated in the villages of Susah and Albu Badran is a war crime and a crime against humanity and demonstrates, once again, that the States of the coalition have no regard for international law and international humanitarian law.

- The Syrian Arab Republic is astonished that the authors continue to inflate the importance of isolated incidents in certain parts of Syria and cite, in relation to allegations that hospitals are being targeted, inaccurate information and statistics that are taken largely from the armed terrorist groups themselves, in particular the members of the terrorist White Helmets organization, who are the primary source of information of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Meanwhile, OHCHR and its sources, as well OCHA representatives, intentionally do not inform members that, for example, the attacks against populated areas of Aleppo Governorate are being carried out by armed terrorist groups (paras. 13 and 15), which are called "non-State armed opposition groups" in the report, in violation of international law and international humanitarian law.

- In paragraph 21, the authors simply note that civilians across Syria are suffering and being killed, abducted and tortured, without clearly stating that the practices of and violations committed by armed terrorist groups are the causes of that suffering. Generalization leads to error. Moreover, the Secretariat must not hesitate to draw attention to the crimes that are being committed by terrorist groups.

- The paragraphs concerning United Nations requests for visas contain many mistakes. We should like to stress that, in September 2018, United Nations agencies submitted 64 entry visa requests, of which 59, that is to say 92 per cent, were approved. Four requests remain pending and only one request was rejected. On the other hand, the United Nations submitted 104 visa renewal requests in September, of which 103 were approved and one remains pending.

- The Syrian Government authorized United Nations humanitarian agencies to send, in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross, a humanitarian assistance convoy to the Rukban camp directly from within the Syrian Arab Republic. It should be noted that international humanitarian law makes it incumbent upon the occupying Power, which, in this case, is the United States of America, to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilians residing in the camp. However, on 26 October 2018, after reaching the 55 km mark, the United Nations team quickly returned to Damascus because of the deteriorating security situation and reports that the ISIL terrorist organization was going to attack the convoy in the American-controlled area, despite the promise the United States of America had made to the United Nations that it would guarantee the convoy's security. This clearly demonstrates that the United States is primarily responsible for hindering delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Rukban camp and the suffering of the camp's residents.

- The Syrian Arab Republic emphasizes the need for increased international humanitarian support in order to meet the urgent humanitarian needs of Syrians, especially given the modest level of international financing, which, to date, stands at no more than 48 per cent of what is needed. In their review conferences, donors have tied their funding pledges to political conditions that are incompatible with the principles of humanitarian work. In particular, they refuse to fund the rehabilitation of basic service facilities that could help strengthen the resilience of Syrians and support the return of Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons to their areas in a safe and dignified manner. Despite their importance, the authors of the report ignore those issues and conditions, thereby demonstrating that they do not take seriously enough the humanitarian situation in Syria.

- The Syrian Arab Republic regrets that the authors of the report, in conformity with the instructions of certain Western States, are misguidedly promoting cross-border assistance, which has been proven to be ineffective. It has also been established that it is impossible to ensure that such assistance reaches its rightful civilian beneficiaries. Cross-border assistance must be regarded, in one way or another, as indirect support for the terrorists, who are seizing it, and one of the factors that enables them to continue their terrorist operations in Syria.

- With regard to Idlib, the Syrian Arab Republic underscores that it welcomed the Sochi agreement reached on 17 September 2018. It will continue to welcome any initiative that spares Syrian lives and welcomes any initiative that can help restore security and safety in every part of Syria that has been beset by terrorism. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that it will continue to combat terrorism until it has liberated every inch of Syrian territory from the grip of terrorism, terrorists or any illegitimate foreign military presence.

- More than once, the Syrian Arab Republic has requested the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Damascus to work with the relevant United Nations agencies operating in Syria to quickly develop a response for any emergency that might arise in Idlib Governorate. It has also told the Resident Coordinator that it was possible to take action immediately.

- The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that it rejects the unwarranted and irresponsible conduct of the report's authors and OHCHR officials, who persist in using the term "non-State armed opposition" to refer to the ISIL and Nusrah Front terrorist organizations, even though the authors are aware that those two organizations appear on the Security Council lists relating to the Al-Qaida terrorist organization and associated individuals and entities. Those two organizations have links with many terrorist groups deployed in Syria, including, in particular, the "White Helmets" terrorist organization, which is an intelligence and logistical tool being used by certain Western States to support the Nusrah front and ISIL terrorist organizations. More specifically, it is the proxy that has been assigned the task of devising theatrical performances to mislead global public opinion with respect to allegations relating to the use of chemical weapons in Syria. Moreover, the members of this organization participate directly in the acts of terrorism that the above-mentioned organizations perpetrate against Syrians and Syrian institutions.

- The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that the Secretariat, when preparing its reports on the humanitarian situation in Syria, should use experts who are capable of choosing their terminology without bias and in a manner that takes into account legal considerations and is professional and objective. Otherwise, the Secretariat reports in question will simply reflect the wishes of certain

Western States that have adopted extremist positions with respect to the Syrian State.

- In paragraph 9 of the report, the authors state that "restrictions around commercial activities were reported to have resulted in high prices for some key commodities", clearly ignoring the real causes of the rise in prices, inter alia the unilateral coercive economic measures that certain States and regional entities, in particular the United States and the States of the European Union, have imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic. Those measures affect such sectors as health, education, energy, electricity and others that are vital to supporting Syrians and meeting their basic needs. The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its call upon the Secretariat to pressure the States and entities that have imposed those measures to lift them immediately. The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that the continued imposition of those measures is the primary obstacle to ensuring the basic needs of the Syrian people, improving their humanitarian and living conditions, and putting in place the necessary conditions for the return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their homes and the restoration of normal life.

The Syrian Arab Republic regards the authors' continued failure to address this critical issue as irresponsible conduct and a clear sign of lack of professionalism.

In the report under consideration, the authors attempt to further blur mandates and competences by addressing the political situation and using many politicized terms. The Syrian Arab Republic rejects that approach. Such terms have nothing to do with the authors' mandate or the topic of the report, which is supposed to be about the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Syrian Arab Republic once agai calls upon the Security Council to stop issuing these monthly reports, which many see as a waste of time, money and human resources, and replace them with quarterly reports that are written in a professional and credible manner.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2018/966

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 November 2018
English
Original: Russian

Letter dated 29 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith information bulletins from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic for 26–29 October 2018 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

18-18464 (E) 051118 061118

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 29 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (26 October 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The number of violations by illegal armed groups active in the Idlib de-escalation area has not decreased.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported three incidents of gunfire: two in Hama Governorate and one in Aleppo Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours. In total, 1,972 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 3,084.8 tons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (27 October 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported three incidents of gunfire: two in Hama Governorate and one in Aleppo Governorate.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours. In total, 1,972 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 3,084.8 tons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (28 October 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The number of violations by illegal armed groups active in the Idlib de-escalation area has decreased.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported two incidents of gunfire: one in Hama Governorate and one in Ladhiqiyah Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has not reported any violations.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

The Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has not carried out any humanitarian operations over the past 24 hours.

In total, 1,973 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 3,086.8 tons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

Information bulletin from the Russian Federation Ministry of Defence regarding the status of implementation of the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas (29 October 2018)

Observance of the ceasefire regime

Monitoring groups have continued to monitor observance of the ceasefire regime as part of implementing the memorandum on the creation of de-escalation areas in the Syrian Arab Republic, signed by the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey and the Islamic Republic of Iran on 4 May 2017.

The number of violations by illegal armed groups active in the Idlib de-escalation area has decreased.

The Russian representative office of the Russian and Turkish Joint Commission reviewing issues related to violations of the ceasefire regime has reported two incidents of gunfire: one in Aleppo Governorate and one in Hama Governorate.

The Turkish representative office has not reported any violations.

Provision of humanitarian aid to the population of the Syrian Arab Republic

Over the past 24 hours the Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in the Syrian Arab Republic has carried out one humanitarian operation: in Hazzah, Rif Dimashq Governorate, 300 food parcels with a total weight of 1.29 tons were distributed.

In total, 1,974 humanitarian operations have been carried out. The total weight of humanitarian cargo delivered is 3,088.1 tons.

Reconciliation of opposing sides

No ceasefire agreements have been signed over the past 24 hours.

The number of populated areas that have joined the reconciliation process is 2,518.

The number of armed groups that have announced their commitment to accepting and fulfilling the terms of the ceasefire is unchanged — it is still 234.

United Nations S/2018/967

Security Council

Distr.: General
30 October 2018

Original: English

Letter dated 29 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 19 October 2018 from the representative of the Israeli Regime (S/2018/939), I would like to recall my letter dated 3 October 2018 (S/2018/891), in which I brought to your attention that "the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, acting in legitimate self-defence recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, took limited and measured military action on 1 October 2018 in Syria, targeting terrorist elements that are also linked to the terrorist act in Ahvaz. The attack was precise, leaving no collateral damage to civilians and civilian assets in the area".

It is not surprising that the Israeli regime equates targeting terrorist elements to "clearly target and threaten Israel"! They have long been supporting terrorist groups in the region and assisting terrorist acts, including the provision of weapons and logistical support to terrorists in Syria as well as treating their wounded elements.

With respect to the Israeli claim regarding Security Council resolution 2231 (2015), the position of the Iranian Government has already been clarified in detail in my letters dated 9 March 2017 (S/2017/205), 17 August 2017 (S/2017/719) and 29 May 2018 (S/2018/511). Once again, I reiterate that none of the Iranian missiles are "designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons" and thus fall outside the purview of the resolution.

Moreover, it is ironic that the Israeli regime calls for the implementation of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015) — a resolution that they have publicly opposed and repeatedly violated. Therefore, they should be held accountable for such violations and compelled to stop violating that resolution.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

18-18173 (E) 311018

Please recycle

United Nations A/ES-10/799–S/2018/968

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
2 November 2018

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-third year

Identical letters dated 30 October 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Innocent, defenseless Palestinian children continue to be murdered in cold blood by the military forces of Israel, the occupying Power, in grave breach of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law. While article 6 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child affirms that "every child has the inherent right to life" and commits States parties to ensuring "to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child", Palestinian children are being deprived of this right every single day by this cruel and illegal occupation.

Israel's killing and maiming of Palestinian peaceful protesters in the context of the Great Return March in the blockaded Gaza Strip in particular continues unabated and with absolute impunity. We regret to have to convey yet another list of names of Palestinian civilians, including four children, who were wantonly killed for the sole act of calling for freedom and an end to their dehumanization under this oppressive, colonial occupation.

On 23 October 2018, Muntasir Muhammad al-Bazz, age 17, was killed by Israeli occupying forces, who routinely open fire on unarmed Palestinian civilians, carrying out what is clearly a shoot-to-kill policy.

On 26 October, five Palestinians, Ahmad Said Abu Libdeh, age 22, Ayyash Ghassan Shaath, age 23, Nassar Iyad Abu Teem, age 23, Muhammad Khalid Abd al-Nabi, age 27, and Jabir Abu Hameesa, age 27, were also brutally murdered by the occupying forces.

This was followed on 27 October by the targeting of more than 85 locations in the densely-populated Gaza Strip by Israeli warplanes and the killing on 28 October of three more Palestinian boys: Abdul Hameed Abdul Aziz Abu Zaher, age 13, Mohammed Ibrahim al-Sutari, age 13, and Khaled Bassam Abu Saeed, age 14. This brings the total number of Palestinians killed since the protests began on 30 March to

Please recycle

at least 217, with more than 20,000 civilians injured, many gravely wounded and disabled for life.

As reported by Amnesty International recently, since the start of the Great Return March, Israeli soldiers have been using "high-velocity military weapons designed to cause maximum harm to Palestinian protesters that do not pose an imminent threat to them." Amnesty decried these "apparently deliberate attempts to kill and maim" as "deeply disturbing, not to mention completely illegal", with some cases appearing to "amount to willful killing, a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions and a war crime". The organization warned that Israel's newly announced "zero-tolerance" policy towards Palestinian protests in Gaza would give Israeli forces "carte-blanche authorization to carry out large-scale, unlawful killings escalating the bloodshed".

Warnings in this regard have been constant and intensifying. During his last briefing to the Security Council, the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Nickolay Mladenov, stressed, "The situation in Gaza is imploding. This is not a hyperbole. This is not alarmism. It is a reality." Meanwhile, the Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Jamie McGoldrick, has stated that aid workers in Gaza are struggling to keep up with this "severe catastrophe", warning the situation "could even be worse" next year.

Yet, despite the plethora of evidence presented by the United Nations, human rights organizations and by paramedics and journalists working on the ground, including eyewitness accounts and video footage describing and showing Israeli snipers, tanks and drones targeting peaceful Palestinian protesters, including children, Israel persists with its distortions and complete fabrications, implying that Palestinians, on the receiving end of Israeli bullets, are to blame for their own killing and that its illegal actions are intended to counter threats to its security.

This false and offensive narrative must be rejected, and the right of the Palestinian people to peaceful assembly must be reaffirmed. Moreover, it is incumbent upon the international community to remind the occupying Power of its obligations under international law and to insist on respect and an end to Israel's assumption of exceptionalism.

Such systematic dehumanization of the Palestinian people compels us to insist that no peoples, Palestinian or otherwise, can be expected to endure decades of violent oppression, domination and control without at least voicing their rejection of such injustice, including by means of peaceful protest. It is not strange, but rather normal, and should be expected under the circumstances, that Palestinians would rise up to protest the unbearable conditions forced upon them, including in Gaza, which far too many have acknowledged has literally been turned into an open-air prison by Israel's 11-year illegal blockade. As stated by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, Michael Lynk, the dire conditions in Gaza "explain much about the impetus for the large-scale demonstrations that the world has witnessed over the last seven months at the Gaza frontier".

The fact is that, despite our repeated appeals for urgent international action to deter Israel from its perpetual crimes, the absence of accountability has only made our people even more vulnerable to the brutality of this illegal occupation. The international community must act with urgency to enforce the rules of international law. Everyone knows that the Israeli occupation cannot subsist a single day without the commission by the occupying Power of gross and flagrant violations — its very existence is dependent on criminality. It is beyond high-time for serious action to hold Israel accountable for its crimes as a necessary, primary step towards finally bringing to an end the root cause of the Palestinian people's grievances and suffering: the

51-year colonial occupation of Palestine, including the 11-year air, sea and land blockade on Gaza.

In this regard, we must also draw your attention once again to the ongoing deliberate and systematic violations being committed by the occupying Power in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, where Israel persists with its colonial settlement enterprise, enacted and maintained by Israeli officials at all levels of the State, combined with explicit, provocative and aggressive statements by Israeli politicians calling for the annexation of the West Bank. As described last week by Mr. Lynk, "During five decades of the occupation, Israel has steadily entrenched its sovereign footprint throughout the West Bank" and Israeli parliamentarians have taken major initiatives during the past year "that have become a flashing green light for more formal annexation steps".

The following events of recent weeks represent just a few instances of the constant violations and daily brutality faced by Palestinians as a result of Israel's settlement activities.

This week, the Israeli government announced its intention to proceed with the construction of 20,000 more illegal settlement units in Occupied East Jerusalem. In early October, Israel approved a $6 million construction project to also expand settlements in the heart of the occupied city of Al-Khalil (Hebron), where 800 settlers already reside illegally. On 27 October, Israeli settlers took over a Palestinian house in the Silwan district of East Jerusalem after Israeli soldiers had forced out its 11 inhabitants at gunpoint, leaving the Abu Snaineh family homeless. Israeli settlers continue to terrorize Palestinian civilians, with a weekly average of five attacks resulting in injuries or property damage since the beginning of 2018.

Compounding this appalling reality, the occupying Power has also continued to violate the sanctity and historical status of Jerusalem. On 25 October, Israeli occupation forces violently beat and detained Coptic priests at the entrance of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in East Jerusalem. While the Coptic Church has had a continuous presence in Palestine since at least the fourth century and is an integral part of Palestinian societal fabric, Israel continues to harass, intimidate and demean clergy and parishioners. This is all undeniably part and parcel of its insistence on hammering its supremacist ideology by subjugating all non-Jews under its control to racist incitement and attacks, as illustrated recently by the Israeli Knesset's adoption of the so-called "Jewish nation-state law", which explicitly denies full rights to non-Jews.

Such violent dehumanization also translates into the routine killing of Palestinians in the West Bank, where last week alone, three Palestinians were killed: Uthman Ladadweh, age 38, Muhammad Mahmoud Bisharat, age 23, and Muhammad Muammar al-Atrash, age 42.

Meanwhile, Israel continues to impede the international community from witnessing its crimes, with constant distortions of reality through its propaganda and obstruction of the work of human rights organizations documenting violations by its occupying forces. This was illustrated in the Security Council itself on 18 October, when the director of the Israeli human rights organization "B'Tselem", Hagai El-Ad, was slurred with intimidating remarks by the Israeli representative, who called him "an Israeli citizen in the service of the enemy" and a "collaborator" in Hebrew. Mr. El-Ad also drew the wrath of several Israeli leaders, being called a "disgrace", "foreign agent", "illegitimate" and a "Trojan horse". Oren Hazan, a lawmaker in the Likud party, went as far as posting an image of Mr. El-Ad on his social media page with the text "Wanted dead or alive".

We appeal once again to the international community to show its support to the efforts of Palestinian, Israeli and other human rights activists by denouncing such intimidation and incitement and by heeding the calls of humanitarians and human rights organizations to ensure respect for international law. This is critical to ending the monumental injustice faced by the Palestinian people. Statements of condemnation will not suffice; concrete action is needed to end impunity, protect civilians and uphold their human rights and to salvage the prospects for a peaceful and secure future that is in such grave jeopardy at this time.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 649 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 16 October 2018 (A/ES-10/798–S/2018/928) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Ambassador, Chargé d'affaires a.i.